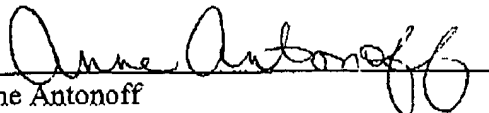


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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted on the date indicated below via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile number (571)-273-8300.

Date: 12-6-05


Anne Antonoff

In Re Application of:

Dale W. Malik

Confirmation No.: 1248

Art Unit: 2142

U.S. Serial No.: 09/725,719

Examiner: Vu, Thong H.

Filing Date: November 20, 2000

Our Reference No.: 190252-1710

For: **Method and Apparatus for Minimizing Storage of Common Attachment Files
in an E-mail Communications Server**

Issue Fee Transmittal
Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance
Credit Card Authorization – Authorizing \$1700.00
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Dale W. Malik

Serial No.: 09/725,719

Filed: November 30, 2000

For: Method and Apparatus for Minimizing
Storage of Common Attachment Files in an
E-mail Communications Server

Group Art Unit: 2142

Examiner: Vu, Thong H.

Docket No.: 190252-1710

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF
REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Statement of Reasons for Allowance includes some statements that may be viewed as an oversimplification of the examination issues, and if taken out of context, could give rise to an improper interpretation of the claims as well as the file history. For these reasons, Applicant provides the following comments.

First, Applicant asserts that there are multiple grounds supporting allowance of the presently pending claims, including grounds in addition to those stated in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Accordingly, it should not be assumed that Applicant agrees with the accuracy of the characterizations of the cited references and the claim elements in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Second, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. Section 282: "Each claim of a patent (whether in independent, dependent, or multiple dependent form) shall be presumed valid independently of the validity of other claims; dependent or multiple dependent claims shall be presumed valid even though dependent upon an invalid claim." Thus, any dependent claims that are not addressed by the Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not rise or fall, when construed in

terms of validity, with their respective independent claims, but instead should be construed independently of their respective independent claims.

Third, the scope and validity of each claim (whether in independent, dependent, or multiple dependent form) should be determined based upon the entire combination of elements/features/steps in each claim, as opposed to only the particular feature or features pointed out by the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

**THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER
& RISLEY, L.L.P.**

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